

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A data storage medium, comprising:
a data unit;
a control field within the data unit; and
a control block, separate from the data unit,
wherein the control block comprises an identifier, a first control area for use if the identifier is recognized, and a second control area for use if the identifier is not recognized; and
wherein the control field comprises at least one bit ~~bits within the control field,~~ having a control action specified by the ~~control block~~ first control area.
2. (Original) The data storage medium of claim 1, where the data unit is one of: a sector, an error correction block, and a track.
3. (Currently amended) A data storage medium, comprising:
a data unit; and
a control block having an identifier, a first control field for use if the identifier is recognized, and a second control field for use if the identifier is not recognized;
wherein the first control field specifies at least one control bit in the data unit and specifies a control action associated with the at least one control bit, ~~the control block specifying at least one control bit in the data unit, and the control block specifying a control action associated with the at least one control bit.~~

4. (Original) The data storage medium of claim 3, where the data unit is one of: a sector, an error correction block, and a track.
5. (Currently amended) A data storage medium, comprising:
a data unit;
a control field within the data unit; and
a control block having an identifier, a first control area for use if the identifier is recognized, and a second control area for use if the identifier is not recognized;
wherein at least one bit of the control field is specified by the first control area;
wherein a control action associated with the at least one bit of the control field is bits within the control field having a control action specified by firmware in a drive reading the data storage medium.
6. (Original) The data storage medium of claim 7, where the data unit is one of: a sector, an error correction block, and a track.
7. (Currently amended) A method, comprising:
providing, in a control block of a data storage medium, an identifier, a first control field for use if the identifier is recognized, and a second control field for use if the identifier is not recognized;
specifying, in ~~[[a]]~~ the first control field of the control block, at least one control bit in a data unit stored on the data storage medium; and
specifying, in the first control field of the control block, a control action associated with the at least one control bit.

8. (Currently amended) A method for reading a data storage medium, comprising:

~~reading, in a control block, by a drive, a control block of the data storage medium, the control block having an identifier, a first control field for use if the identifier is recognized, and a second control field for use if the identifier is not recognized;~~

~~reading an area of the first control field that specifies~~ specifying at least one control bit ~~[[it]]~~ in a data unit stored in the data storage medium;

~~reading, in the control block, by the drive, an area specifying~~ an area of the first control field that specifies a control action associated with the at least one control bit; ~~and~~

~~reading, in the data unit, by the drive, the at least one control bit in the data unit; and~~

~~conforming, by the drive, to the control action associated with the at least one control bit.~~

9. (New) The data storage medium of claim 1, wherein the control block is written once and wherein the data unit is re-writable.

10. (New) The data storage medium of claim 1, wherein the at least one bit is set such that the control action applies to the data unit.

11. (New) The data storage medium of claim 1, wherein the at least one bit is set such that the control action does not apply to the data unit.

12. (New) The data storage medium of claim 1 further comprising a plurality of data units, wherein the control block specifies which data units are controlled by the control block.

13. (New) The data storage medium of claim 1 wherein the control action corresponds to password control.

14. (New) The data storage medium of claim 13 wherein the at least one bit is set to enable data associated with the data unit to be sent to a requesting device if a valid password is provided.

15. (New) The data storage medium of claim 13 wherein the at least one bit is set to enable data associated with the data unit to be sent to a requesting device without a valid password being provided.

16. (New) The data storage medium of claim 1 wherein the control action corresponds to encryption control.

17. (New) The data storage medium of claim 16 wherein the at least one bit is set to enable encrypted data associated with the data unit to be sent to a requesting device.

18. (New) The data storage medium of claim 16 wherein the at least one bit is set to enable decrypted data associated with the data unit to be sent to a requesting device.

19. (New) The data storage medium of claim 1 wherein the control action corresponds to a combination of password control and encryption control.